



U.S. ARMY CIVIL AFFAIRS & PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS COMMAND (AIRBORNE)

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Civil Affairs

Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Civil Affairs & Psychological Operations Command (Airborne)

Civil affairs units help military commanders by working with civil authorities and civilian populations in the commander's area of operations to lessen the impact of military operations on them during peace, contingency operations and declared war. CA forces support activities of conventional commanders, and do so in the Reserve CA as a unique blend of Army, Navy and Air Force personnel.

CA specialists can quickly and systematically identify critical requirements needed by local citizens in war or disaster situations.

They can also locate civil resources to support military operations, help minimize civilian interference with operations, support national assistance activities, plan and execute noncombatant evacuation, support counterdrug operations and establish and maintain liaison or dialogue with civilian aid agencies and other nongovernmental organizations.

These culturally-oriented, linguistically-capable Soldiers and DoD personnel may also be tasked to provide functional expertise for foreign internal defense operations, unconventional warfare operations and direct action missions.

The functional structure of CA forces and their expertise, training, and orientation provide a capability for emergency coordination and administration where political-economic structures have been incapacitated.

Additionally, they can coordinate military resources to support government operations, emergency actions and humanitarian assistance from natural, man-made or war-related causes.

Ninety four percent of the Department of Defense's CA forces are found in our Reserve CA ranks – four civil affairs commands, seven subordinate brigades and 28 battalions. They provide a prime source of skills necessary to help a nation rebuild following conflict and improve services for its people in times of peace.

CA units include Soldiers with training and experience in public administration, public safety, public health, legal systems, labor management, public welfare, public finance, public education, civil defense, public works and utilities, public communications, public transportation, logistics, food and agricultural services, economics, property control, cultural affairs, civil information and managing dislocated persons.

CA deployments have provided tactical support to military commanders during Operation Just Cause in Panama, Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm in Southwest Asia, support to the restoration of the Panamanian government infrastructure during Operation Promote Liberty, management of Haitian refugee camps at Guantanamo Bay and stateside natural disaster assistance in the aftermath of hurricanes Andrew and Iniki.

CA experts were called on to help rebuild the Haitian civilian infrastructure during Operation Uphold Democracy and again during the NATO peacekeeping operations in both Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo.

More recently, Reserve Civil Affairs units are deploying in support of operations Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and the Horn of Africa to assist the people of these war-torn nations in rehabilitating their societies after the Global War on Terrorism brought an end to decades of oppression in those countries.

The unique training, experience and abilities of USACAPOC (A)'s Soldiers make them an ideal asset in dealing with national priorities.



Civil Affairs Regimental Insignia

Purple and white are the colors traditionally associated with Civil Affairs. Gold is emblematic of honor and achievement. The scroll, sword and torch are adapted from the Civil Affairs branch insignia and denote the branch-wide scope and application of the design. The scroll and sword depict the civil and military aspects of the organization. The torch refers to the Statue of Liberty, a symbol associated with the spirit of democracy of the United States. The border emphasizes unity, continuity and the whole regimental concept. The scales represent balance and normality; the gauntlet denotes the military's role in establishing, administering and protecting the equilibrium. The globe signifies the extensive scope of the mission of the Civil Affairs Regiment.